



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - April 4, 2003

- ***In the West***, rain and snow showers continue across ***northern California*** and parts of the ***Northwest***. Meanwhile, mild, dry weather favors spring fieldwork in ***southern California*** and the ***Southwest***.
- ***On the Plains***, developing dryness across ***Oklahoma*** and ***northern Texas*** favors spring fieldwork but is increasing stress on winter wheat. Meanwhile, long-term precipitation deficits persist on the ***northern and central High Plains***, despite beneficial March rain and snow.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, frozen precipitation (slow, sleet, and freezing rain) and cold, breezy conditions persist across ***northern portions of the region***, disrupting travel and increasing livestock stress. Rain showers are falling elsewhere in the region, boosting ***Midwestern*** topsoil moisture reserves.
- ***In the South***, isolated showers and thunderstorms are causing only minor planting delays. Spring fieldwork remains slightly behind schedule in much of the ***southern Atlantic region*** due to earlier rains.

Outlook: For the remainder of the week, significant snow, sleet, and freezing rain is likely across the ***Great Lakes States and New England***, while showers and thunderstorms will accompany a cold front across the ***Ohio Valley, Tennessee Valley, and East Coast States***. Below-normal temperatures will trail the cold front across the ***Plains, Midwest***, and much of the ***East***. Meanwhile, occasional rain and snow showers will continue across the ***West***. During the weekend, a strengthening storm in the ***nation's mid-section*** may result in snow across the ***central Plains and Midwest***, and severe thunderstorms in the ***lower Mississippi Valley***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for April 9-13 calls for above-normal precipitation across the ***Gulf Coast States, Southeast, and Mid-Atlantic region***, while drier-than-normal weather is expected in the ***northern Rockies, northern and central Plains, and Midwest***. Near- to slightly below-normal temperatures are forecast across the ***nation's southern tier***, but warmer-than-normal weather is expected elsewhere across the U.S.

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